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SPECIAL COOPERATIVE PROGRAM EDITION INSIDE

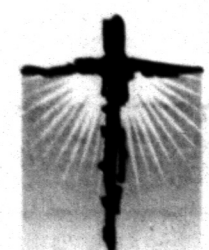
SPECIAL EDITION

Record

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MISSISSIPPI
BAPTISTS

Movie sure to raise evolutionists' ire

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — Actor, commentator, and comedian Ben Stein promises he hasn't lost his mind. Well, he says with his famous dry monotone humor, at least not in this instance.

On the contrary, Stein — whose documentary film, *Expelled: No Intelligence Allowed*, opens April 18 — believes he's involved in one of the leading cultural and political battles of his life: the fight for academic freedom against an establishment that teaches Darwinian evolution as fact. Intelligent Design (ID), the belief that certain aspects of the world are so complex that they must have been created by an intelligent being, instead of by a random process, deserves a place at the academic table, he says.

"I think I'm engaged in a struggle that's very much uphill in which the establishment is very much against me," he said in a recent telephone conference call with reporters, "but I'm a rebel to my core... and happy to be in an uphill struggle, as long as the cause is right."

Obviously, conservatives and supporters of Intelligent Design don't believe Stein has lost his mind. Rather, they believe *Expelled*, one of the year's most controversial films, has a chance to change dramatically the landscape in the ongoing struggle between evolution and Intelligent Design (ID).

In the film, Stein travels the globe interviewing scientists, philosophers, and doctors who believe in evolution and those who believe in Intelligent Design. In case after case, Stein recounts the story of ID supporters who lost their jobs or couldn't get tenure because of their supposed controversial beliefs.

The documentary, rated PG for thematic material and very brief language, ends in a climactic scene with Stein interviewing one of the world's leading backers of evolution, atheist and author Richard Dawkins.

Stein's humor is on display throughout the film, although supporters of evolution likely won't find it too funny. Christian conservative leaders are supporting the movie. The film was shown at the recent National Religious Broadcasters meeting and is also scheduled to be the topic of an upcoming Focus on the Family broadcast.

ID supporters, Stein and the film assert, are facing staunch opposition in the academic world, in the media, and in the courts.

"The case we're making," associate producer Mark Mathis said, "is that there needs to be freedom in science, that we have highly qualified scientists who are being persecuted for unscientific reasons [and] are being driven [away] by a philosophy. That is the core content of the film — the persecution of scientists needs to stop."

A secondary theme is that evolution, taken to the extreme, can have deadly consequences. In one part of the documentary that likely will stir controversy, Stein tours a Jewish concentration camp and interviews an expert who argues that evolution was a contributing factor to the Holocaust.

For Stein, who is Jewish, the moment was personal.

Some critics will say the documentary unfairly links evolution to the Holocaust, but Stein believes the film showed restraint. One

person in the film says evolution was a necessary, but not sufficient, cause of the Holocaust.

"If I had my way about this movie, which I didn't, because I was not one of the producers, I would have had much more of it [be] about Nazi Germany," Stein said. "The unequivocal nature of the evidence that Darwinism had a big part to play in rationalizing the Holocaust for the Nazis is so painful and so horrible that I think we touched on extreme, extreme restraint."

The film, Stein says, is not saying evolutionists are Nazis.

"What we're saying is that the Nazis thought they were carrying out Darwinian ideas in the sense of eliminating inferior races and making mankind healthy and so forth," he said.

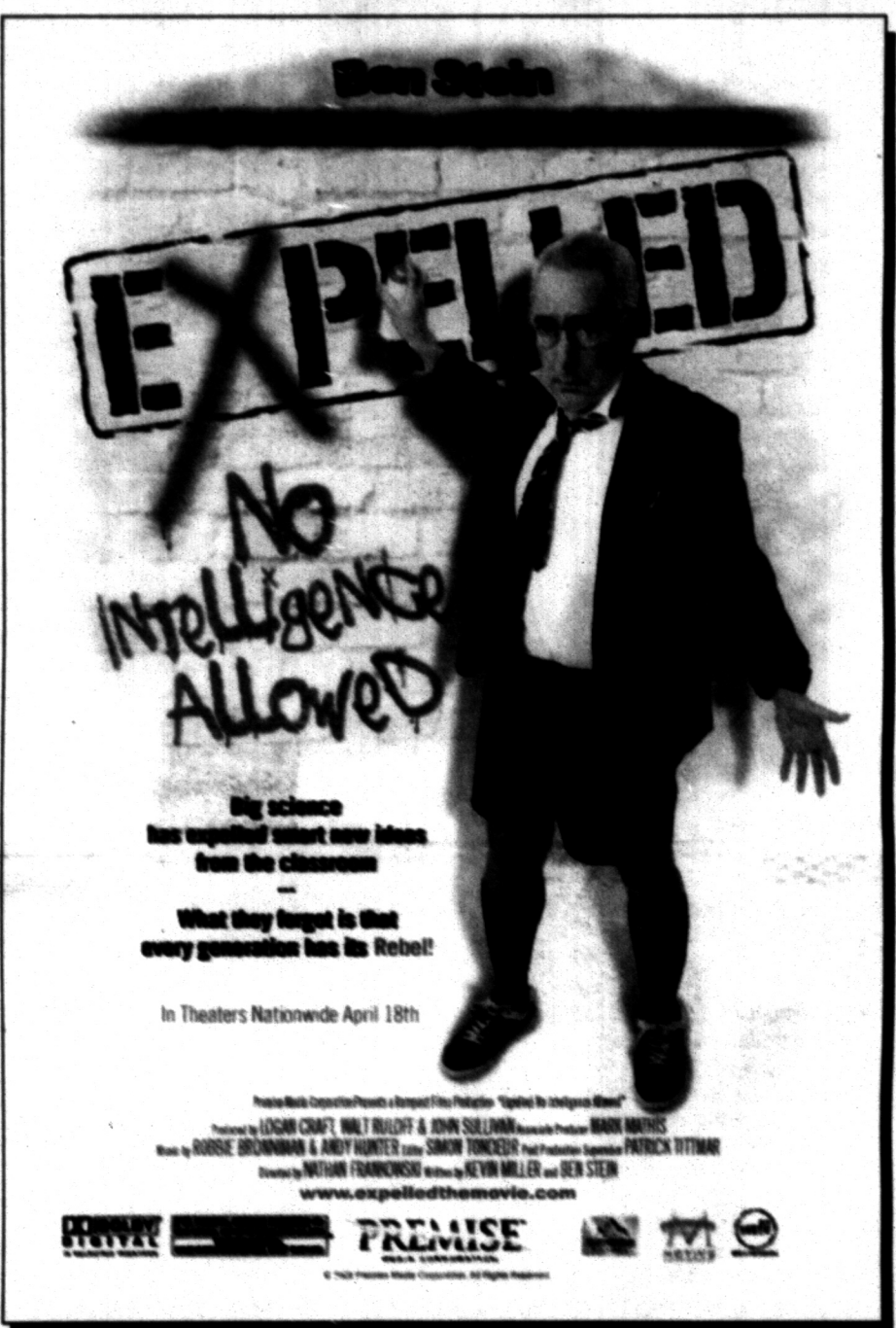
Although the Nazi element might get the media's spotlight, the majority of the documentary focuses on the ongoing fight for academic freedom by supporters of Intelligent Design.

Stein interviews, among others, Guillermo Gonzalez, a supporter of ID and an astronomy professor at Iowa State University who was denied tenure, and Caroline Crocker, a biology teacher at George Mason University who was forced out because she questioned Darwinian evolution and introduced Intelligent Design in the classroom.

Stein also speaks with Richard Sternberg, a biologist who was ridiculed and harassed by his peers at the Smithsonian Institution for allowing the publishing of a pro-Intelligent Design paper in an academic journal. Sternberg's plight received national attention in 2005-06 and even led to a congressional investigation that found top officials had desired to make Sternberg's "life at the Museum as difficult as possible and encourage him to leave."

Stein also interviews Southwestern Seminary philosophy professor William Dembski, one of the nation's leading supporters of Intelligent Design.

Getting involved in the project, Stein says, wasn't a difficult decision. "I was always interested in Darwinism because



I never thought it gave a particularly coherent explanation of how life originated and developed," he said.

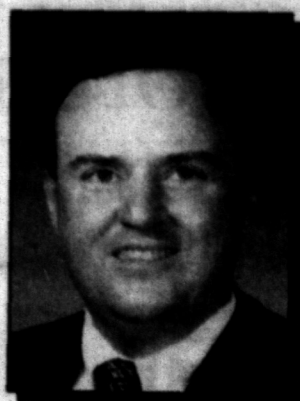
"I also was extremely concerned about the social implications of Darwinism and the moral, ethical, and human costs of Darwinism, because I knew Darwinism was one of the main props under the national socialist regime of Adolf Hitler and that the Holocaust was commenced in large part to satisfy social Darwinists' aims of eliminating so-called inferior races. That was my starting point."

As he got involved in the project with the documentary's producers, Stein said, he began seeing it as a free speech issue. Stein and the producers conducted the interviews over a period of two years.

In addition to Dawkins, the film includes interviews of several prominent backers of evolution, including biologist PZ Myers, a biologist and atheist at the University of Minnesota Morris, and Eugenie Scott, executive director of the National Center for Science Education.

Editor's note: For more information, visit www.expelledthemovie.com.

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A new era of parenthood

I wonder if I've been changed in the night? Let me think. Was I the same when I got up this morning? I almost think I can remember feeling a little different. But if I'm not the same, the next question is 'Who in the world am I?' Ah, that's the great puzzle! — Alice, from *Alice in Wonderland* by Lewis Carroll (1865).

Hold on to your seats. New Age goddess Oprah Winfrey had the guest of all guests on her syndicated television show last week. Thomas Beatie of Oregon announced that he is pregnant with child and Oprah declared that he will be the first man in history to deliver a baby.

Before your head explodes, though, here's the real story you won't get from the fawning national news media. Thomas Beatie is no man. He is a woman who has undergone transgender surgery and hormone treatment to become a man, or what "he" considers to be a man. (The pronouns are going to get confusing from this point forward, given that pronouns are a throwback to the unenlightened age when there were literal definitions of male and female.)

After what "he" (or is it she?) describes as a lifelong struggle as a man trapped in a woman's body, she (or is it "he"?) has his (or is it her?) breasts removed but keeps his (or is it her?) female reproductive organs and the connected external parts.

"I feel it's not a male or female desire to have a child. It's a human need. I'm a



A TRIBUTE TO THE TINY CAUSES FOR WHICH SOME PEOPLE LIVE.

person and I have the right to have a biological child," Beatie told Oprah.

Is that clear? Read on.

Beatie also argues that the developing child is the product of a legitimate marriage. After "he" made the partial change to maleness, Beatie had his gender legally changed in Oregon to reflect his new outlook on life. Apparently a person can do that in Oregon.

Upon legally changing his gender, Beatie took a wife. Nancy is the legal wife in the relationship and Thomas, who was born Tracy and was once a Miss Teen Hawaii USA finalist, is the legal husband. Again, this is apparently sanctioned in Oregon.

News reports indicate the couple told Oprah that since Nancy, who is the mother of two daughters by a previous

marriage, can no longer have children, they hit upon the idea of Thomas bearing a child. Of course, neither Nancy nor Thomas is biologically male so they acquired, shall we say, a "donation" to help accomplish their goal. The Baptist Record being a family newspaper, that's as far as we can go with the story of how Thomas was impregnated, but suffice to say that the pair laid out the whole sordid process in detail for Oprah's national audience.

Thomas and Nancy are celebrities now and Thomas' naked, bulging belly graces dozens if not hundreds of Internet sites. The national news media are eating up the story. Transgender groups are triumphant. We have entered a new era of parenthood.

"Thomas has been off testosterone for two years before even trying to conceive. His testosterone levels are normal. Some physical changes are permanent, but his hormone levels are normal. People ask, 'Is the baby going to be normal?' The baby is totally healthy," Oregon ob/gyn specialist Kimberly James told Oprah.

Well, I suppose that's a relief, since the baby is the only innocent in this perverse story. It's not hard to imagine the future psychological and social implications for this child, though. Being born to a half-man/half-woman who serves as both your mother and father, and having another "mother" in the house to boot, can't help but be mind-bending.

For the many people who are applauding Thomas Beatie, he is the new normal in America — in which case it seems fitting to end with another quote from *Alice in Wonderland*, this time from the Cheshire Cat: *We're all mad here.*

It certainly seems so, doesn't it?

GUEST OPINION:



Imagine

By Jerry W. Mixon
Director of Stewardship
and Cooperative Program
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

Let's just suppose an 83-year-old man walked into your office and began telling you that through his efforts last year he was a part of engaging 567,413 new believers and 1.2 million church members in discipleship training and that he had a plan to reach the 3.3 billion people who have never heard the gospel. Would you believe him?

I believe you would have a lot of doubts running through your mind because you see him as a senior adult. You might even think he is not only dated, but obsolete. You can see he does not fit with the culture of today. You notice his suit smells of moth balls and appears old, wrinkled, and worn. The wide suit lapels remind you of your grandfather's suit from 1920.

What if he continued to speak, claiming that last year he started 68 Bible-based churches each day. Would you believe him? I think not. Then, what if he added that last year he saw one person saved and baptized worldwide every minute of every day. Could you believe him? It does not appear to you that he is finished so you invite him to be seated. He takes a seat and

speaks of a personal ministry in Mississippi on 33 college and university campuses. He boasts also of helping thousands of children and youth be a part of Bible drills all across our state. He said that he had maintained two camps in the state and planned to develop a new state-of-the-art retreat center for youth and adults. After hearing all of this, would you consider him to be as confused as a termite in a yoyo, or just plain nuts?

Then he stands and walks around the room, observing various books you have on display. He states to you that he personally helped support three schools of higher education in Mississippi last year. He also claims that this year

in only seven months he helped restore 57 pastors and staff members to ministry after their sudden termination. This assistance furnished financial aid and counseling. He explains this cost was \$22,615.60.

I know by now you are thinking this old fellow has lost it. Then he looks you straight in the eye saying, "That is not all I've done. I could go on, but I came by to say thank you. I could not have done this alone. Thank you for supporting my work financially."

Now you are as confused as the man who bought a new boom-a-rang and could not throw his old one away. The old man continues, "You and your church were a part of all I

have done. Together we funded over 10,000 missionaries on the mission field all day, every day and night, last year. You see, I could have done some of this alone and you could have done some alone, but together we have made a huge difference in the world. We did it together." You are about to ask him his name when he says, "Pastor, some call me CP, but my name is Cooperative Program. I was born in 1925. I'm 83 years old, but I'm still young. I wanted you to know that God is not through with me."

You lay your Baptist Record aside and pause to reflect on the article you have been reading. You look up and there is no one in the room. You realize you have just been reminded that your church really did help accomplish all these things this past year through the Cooperative Program. You bow your head and voice a prayer to continue your support of ministry and missions through the Cooperative Program.

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Telephone encouragers reaching many lost

HARRISON, Ark. (BP) — Patricia Zimmerman, a 71-year-old widow in Arkansas, has led nearly 300 strangers to Christ. The retired registered nurse and substitute teacher never had to leave her home in the heart of the Ozarks to do so.

Zimmerman is among 3,900 telephone encouragers for the North American Mission Board (NAMB) Evangelism Response Center (ERC) who answer phones and share the Gospel from the convenience of their homes.

Using the ERC's high-tech virtual telephone network, volunteers remotely answer toll-free calls to (888) Jesus2008 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The ERC also has "Internet encouragers" who use computers to share the Gospel with users who link to the ERC website, www.thegoodnews.org.

While Zimmerman sets her schedule to take calls on Tuesday and Sunday evenings, she actually "logs on" whenever she has a chance, much more frequently than the ERC's monthly minimum of two and a half hours. It doesn't take a computer to log on, just a touch-tone phone.

Modest by nature, she doesn't keep up with the number of souls she's helped lead to Christ. She said she worries more about pleasing Jesus and "doing it right."

"My biggest job is to reach people for Jesus," she says. "The people who call are like ripe fruit. Others have usually witnessed to them and prepared their hearts. All I have to do is pick the fruit."

Zimmerman, who has answered ERC calls for eight years, has a sense of urgency about non-Christians. "I'm adamant about reaching people for Jesus because I know heaven and hell are real."

For leading 300 people to Christ during her ERC career, Zimmerman was named Telephone Encourager of the Year for 2007 during the Arkansas Baptist State Convention's evangelism conference.

After completing two hours of training, ERC telephone volunteers like Zimmerman receive a password. When they are ready to answer calls, they simply dial the ERC phone number, input a PIN (personal identification number) and their password, and punch in the phone number where they can be reached.

The ERC system then automatically forwards calls to that number. Calls are handled in either English or Spanish.

N.S.R.K. Ravi, ERC coordinator at NAMB's Atlanta-area headquarters, said the center exists to advance the intentional presentation of the life-changing Gospel of Jesus Christ.

"We respond and pray with persons who contact us through various media, and

refer them to local Southern Baptist Convention churches where they can obtain further ministry and spiritual growth opportunities," Ravi said.

The ERC fielded some 75,000 calls during 2006-07, an average of 3,100 per month. More than 2,200 callers made first-time salvation decisions over the two-year period, Ravi reported.

In a recently announced partnership with Holman Bible Outreach, a ministry of LifeWay Christian Resources, the ERC will send out 2,000 free, Holman-donated Bibles to all callers who make decisions for Christ.

At the same time, Holman Bible Outreach now prints the ERC toll-free phone number in all of its new and reprinted Bibles and New Testaments, totaling more than 500,000 each year.

"God is clearly at work at NAMB, and we wanted Holman Bible Outreach to come alongside NAMB and help support the Evangelism Response Center," said Phill Burgess, Holman's executive director in Nashville.

"Having a place that people who receive a Bible can call to speak with a trained counselor about Jesus Christ, and then be able to connect that person with an ERC church, completes the evangelism loop in a way that could never be achieved otherwise," Burgess said.

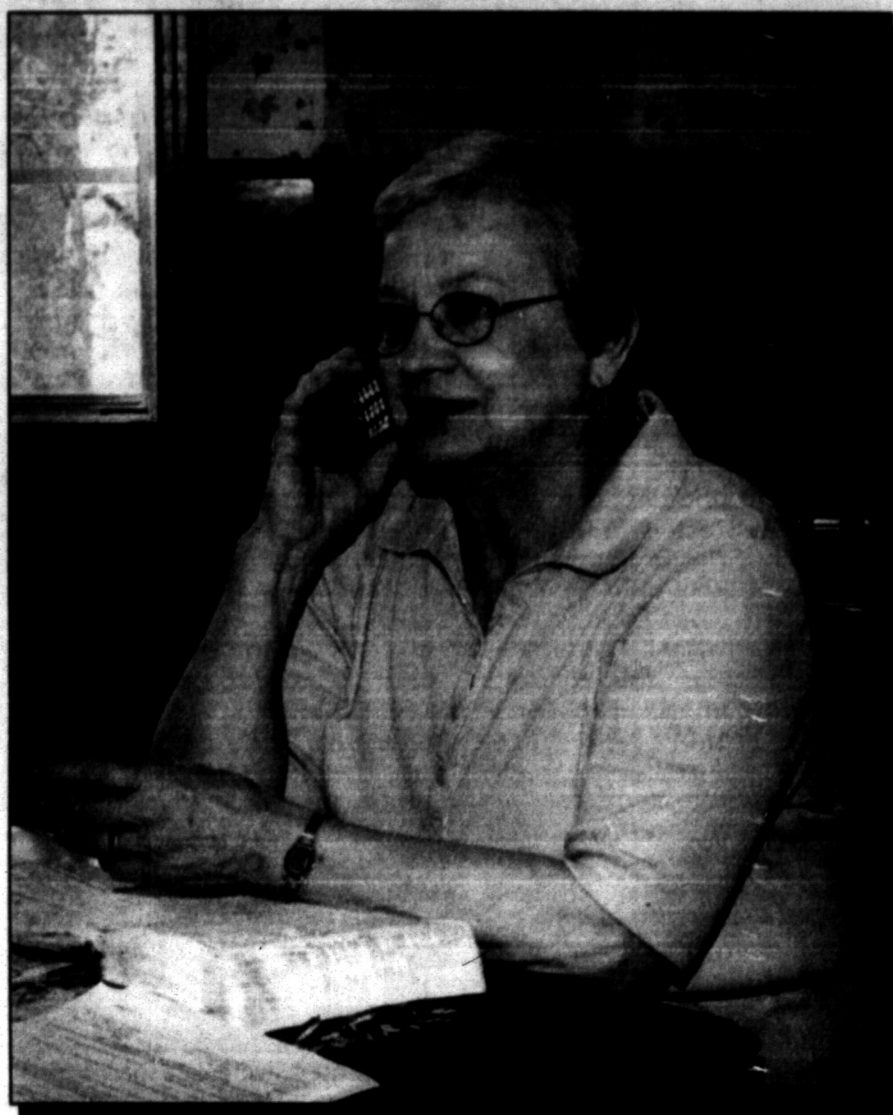
Ravi said the ERC is looking for relationships with 6,000-8,000 SBC covenant churches nationwide — four or five in each local association — who commit to follow up on callers in their areas within three days. During the follow-up, the covenant church encourages the person to be baptized, disciplined, and join a local SBC church.

"About one in four people calling the ERC makes some kind of decision: a commitment to ministry, to volunteer, or a decision for Christ," Ravi said.

Calls are generated from a myriad of ministries and media, some outside the Southern Baptist Convention. For instance, the ERC handles more than 10% of the calls to the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association. Other calls may be generated by special events or mass media campaigns (TV, radio, billboards) launched by one of the 40 state Baptist conventions or other ministries.

Telephone encouragers such as Zimmerman are carefully trained and certified by one of 43 regional facilitators or NAMB staff on how to field calls and share the Gospel. They can choose the time they want to handle calls — evenings, late nights, or weekends — based on their schedules.

Ravi said the ERC is in "desperate need" for more covenant



ON THE LINE — Patricia Zimmerman, a volunteer "telephone encourager" for the North American Mission Board's Evangelistic Response Center, has led some 300 callers to Christ from her home in the Arkansas Ozarks. (BP photo)

churches and more volunteers, noting, "We have a goal of having 10,000 volunteers handling 100,000 calls a year."

Zimmerman, who has fielded calls from all 50 states and Canada, has shared her faith over the phone with Jews and Muslims, along with truckers on America's highways who saw the toll-free number on a billboard. She's even shared with those who couldn't read.

"You have to feel your way through each call, and each call is different. Bottom line, you make them realize they're sinners, need a Savior and without Him, they're going to hell. Believe it or not, most of my callers are from believers who need discipling, and you can disciple folks on the phone."

"I do it for Jesus," said Zimmerman, a member of Countyline Church in Compton. "He's my life. He's blessed me. It's not always easy being a widow in Arkansas, but this is where He put me for this reason and purpose."

Ravi said by the end of 2008 there will be more than two billion wireless phones in use worldwide, and 1.5 billion people who use the Web.

"We need to use technology to reach people for Christ. The tragedy of the church today is that evangelicals are biblical but not contemporary in technology. The world uses contemporary technology more than us. We need both faithfulness to the Word and sensitivity to the modern world," Ravi said.

Looking back

10 years ago

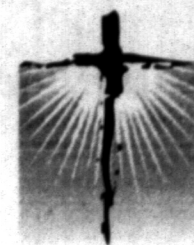
The option to order undated materials is added to the Internet site of the Sunday School Board of the Southern Baptist Convention, effective Mar. 31.

20 years ago

Trustees of the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission (RTVC) in Ft. Worth vote to sell the ACTS television network to a new for-profit corporation, Friends of ACTS Inc. RTVC president Jimmy Allen tells trustees he will resign and manage ACTS for the new entity, if asked.

50 years ago

Approximately one out of six, or 5,320 Southern Baptist Churches, report no baptisms for 1957. The ratio of baptisms per membership reaches a 10-year low, down from the high 18.9 per member in 1950.



MISSISSIPPI
BAPTISTS

THE SECOND
FRONT PAGE

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Bibliocipher

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ETX FSOT CO KHETX MLE-
CUTV, WALVUGO, UW CO
SEGO AIVSH EVEUTKH ETC:
HSEH CAIL WEHSOL ENKA
FSUYS UK UT SOEGOT REC
WALVUGO CAI CAIL HLOK-
MEKKO.
REL P ONOGOT: HFOTH-
WUGO

Clue: F=W

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Luke Eighteen Sixteen.

MY LATEST FAVORITE

The other day I took two of my grandsons to the bookstore. They both are interested in books and information about everything from dinosaurs to Curious George to George Washington. We went in and found the children's section, and they started picking up books that caught their attention. In short order, the younger of the two had about six books that he just had to have. Negotiations began to try to get him down to about two or three books, but the problem was as he expressed it, "Every one of these books is my very favorite." I started to tell him that was not possible and that not all six books could be his very favorite, but I knew that was a pointless exercise. However, I was able to help him decide on his top three favorites. Frankly, he did better than I did because I have more than three favorites.

You see on Sunday, March 30, 2008, my newest, favorite grandchild was born. On that day, Philip and Mysti Chustz welcomed into their family Mary Lamar Chustz. My newest of the seven favorites was born. Everybody was there to welcome her into the world. All four of her grandparents, uncles and aunts, adopted uncles and aunts, all of the cousins — Madi, Trea, Ridge, Rivers, Banks, Stephen, and Samuel were there. Of course, of monumental impor-



Directions

Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

tance was the fact that big brother Coleman was there entertaining the crowd and orchestrating the welcome. She is the newest of my very favorite grandkids.

She did not seem to be all that big at 8 pounds, 4 ounces, and 20 inches long, and though none of us had ever seen her, you could not help but love her. In some ways, she is like other babies and like our other grandchildren, but in other ways, she is her own unique, stand alone, one-of-a-kind special person. Her name, Mary Lamar, is special. They hope to call her Mary Lamar as she grows up. Of course, who knows what some creative or warped minds may come up with and it stick through her entire life? Mary is of course a wonderful name for a girl and a lady. In our family, a great grandmother was named Mary. One grandmother is named Mary. Her oldest cousin is named Mary, along with the mother of our Lord Jesus and many others in Scripture. She will wear that name with pride and respect.

Lamar may seem like an unusual name, but it too is won-

derfully special. I have been asked if that is a family name and the answer is yes. Her paternal grandmother is named Mary Lamar. Her father is named Philip Lamar. Down through their family there have been Lamars all coming from the connection of an outstanding Mississippian of the 1800s named L.Q.C. Lamar. He was a lawyer who lived in Oxford and taught at the University of Mississippi. He served as an ambassador to Russia. He served in the House of Representatives of the U.S. Congress and was a senator from Mississippi. Additionally, he served on the Supreme Court of the United States as a Justice. There are actually three counties named after him, in Alabama, Georgia, and Mississippi. Each received their names from L.Q.C. Lamar. Since too many of us seem to forget too quickly who we are or the heritage from whence we came, it is noteworthy that Mary Lamar is named after one of our great, outstanding leaders. It is of interest also that in John F. Kennedy's well known book, Profiles in Courage, he writes about L.Q.C. Lamar.

With all of these features in her background, the reality is that she is a uniquely named little lady. This I know for sure, that she will be loved. She like every one of my grandkids has far more wonderful parents than my kids had. Well, at least that is true on the father's side. I watch with admiration and amazement as our kids love and raise our grandkids. What a blessing! But supremely I know that God Himself has a plan, a purpose, and special things in store for Mary Lamar. Jeremiah 29:11, that marvelous Scripture says, "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans for good things and not for evil, plans that will produce good results." What a marvelous prospect and promise that is.

A Grandfather's Prayer

Lord, thank you for Mary Lamar. You knew her before she came to be with us, but we are so grateful that you sent her our way and allowed us to be the recipients of the blessings from her life. Father, you understand how to love, lead, and bless children, and so we ask you to teach us that we might be all that we need to be to help her. When we fail, may your grace be with us and for her in great abundance. When we point her in the right direction, shine your light brightly on her path. We thank you so much for the wonder and the blessing of this new life, Mary Lamar Chustz. In Jesus' name, Amen.



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MS POSITIONS

CENTRAL BAPTIST CHURCH, Brookhaven, Miss., is currently accepting resumes for a full-time minister of music/outreach. Please send resumes to 749 North Jackson Street, Brookhaven, MS 39601 or email to questions@cbcbrookhaven.org.

FAIRFIELD BAPTIST CHURCH, Moselle, Miss., is seeking a full-time pastor. Please send resume with references to Fairfield Baptist Church, c/o Ramsey Coutta, 942 Moselle-Seminary Rd., Moselle, MS 39459.

NORTH COLUMBIA BAPTIST Church is searching for a minister of music/education. Send resume to North Columbia Baptist Church, P.O. Box 271, Columbia, MS 39429. Or email to ncbc1@hotmail.com.

FBC KOSCIUSKO, MISS., IS SEEKING a full-time minister of children. To submit a resume, please mail to FBC, P.O. Box Box 70, Kosciusko, MS 39090, attention personnel chairman, or email fbc@fbckosciusko.com.

BRANDON BAPTIST CHURCH, Brandon, Miss., a traditional southern Baptist church, is currently accepting resumes from qualified applicants for the position of senior

pastor. Please send resumes to pastor selection committee, P.O. Box 1662, Brandon, MS 39043-1662.

WE ARE ACCEPTING RESUMES FOR THE Union County Baptist Associational Missions Director position. Please send resumes to Union County Baptist Association, attn: AMD search committee, P.O. Box 1014, New Albany, MS 38652 or email to baptistunion@bellsouth.net.

UTICA BAPTIST CHURCH, UTICA, Miss., 25 miles West of Jackson on Hwy. 18, seeking a part-time youth and children minister. Church has fully graded choir program for children and youth, active AWANA program on Sunday pm and active missions education program on Wednesday pm. Contact the church at 601-885-8806 or email utica_baptist@bellsouth.net for further information.

WANTED: PINEVIEW BAPTIST CHURCH, Clinton, MS is seeking individual for part-time interim minister of music or part-time minister of music for blended Worship service. Please send resume to Pineview Baptist Church, 1288 Clinton-Raymond Road, Clinton, MS 39056 or email to Pineviewbc@bellsouth.net. Or fax your resume to 601-924-8378.

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2008

First Baptist Church Columbia
invites you to join

in our 125th Anniversary Celebration
Saturday, May 3 through Sunday May 4
Saturday, May 3 activities:
Reception 5 pm - 7 pm
Historical cemetery tours Carriage Rides Dinner under the Tent
Outdoor Music Outdoor children's fun & games Indoor Exhibits

Sunday, May 4 activities:
Sunday School 9:15 am • worship 10:30 am • Dinner on the grounds 12:00 pm



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THE BAPTIST SPECIAL EDITION

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

Mississippian serving in national role

By Tony Martin
Associate Editor

Baptist student ministry thrives in Mississippi, and a product of that ministry is now serving Southern Baptists on a national level.

Linda Osborne is National Collegiate Ministry Leader, Network Partnerships Division, at LifeWay Christian Resources in Nashville. Osborne, a product of First Church, Winona, traces her life path from her early days in Winona to the leadership position she now holds.

Osborne graduated from high school in Winona in May of 1982. Jerry Mixon, now director of the Stewardship & Cooperative Program Promotion Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, was her pastor. She attended Mississippi State University after graduation.

"I felt a call to ministry in high school," said Osborne. "I always say that church and family worked for me like it was supposed to work. Becoming a Christian was a very natural thing for me to do. When I was a sophomore, I helped with some Backyard Bible Clubs, and that really made me want to serve. From then on, I wanted to get my hands dirty in ministry. So in college, I did tons of things in BSU (Baptist Student Union). First Church, Starkville was instrumental in my life then. I participated in mission work overseas, did discipleship and leadership development, and after college I knew God wanted me to continue in ministry even though at the time I didn't know what that would look like. Children's ministry? Youth ministry? Marry a preacher? I just didn't know."

After Mississippi State, Holmes Community College did not have a BSU or BSU director. Other community colleges had BSU work, so Holmes Association realized the need for student work at Holmes. "They needed someone who would work real cheap," Osborne joked, "so that was my first job after college. I served there for two years. After doing that, I came to see that God wanted me in collegiate ministry."

From there, Osborne attended Midwestern Seminary in Kansas City. "There were tons of collegiate ministry jobs available in the Midwestern area," said Osborne, "and there weren't that many workers available so it was a real opportunity for me to serve. I worked at two commuter campuses while there."

After graduation from Midwestern Seminary, Osborne went to Arkansas State University as associate BSU director. She served as associate for three years. She went from there to Florida State University as BSM (Baptist Student Ministries) director. "FSU was considered the top party school in America," said Osborne wryly, "but during my tenure, it dropped to seventh. I'd like to think we had something to do with that!"

Osborne then went to Louisiana Tech University and served there for nine years. In the meantime, the Collegiate Ministries department at LifeWay was making a transition from one department to another. "We're a small division," said Osborn,

"and about eight years ago, Bill Henry, who had been the National Collegiate Ministry director but then headed this division, called me. He said, 'You're who I want to talk to about this position.' So I came and talked to him, felt excited about the possibility, and it all came together."

Osborne has served in this position since November, 2006. "Recently, I found this purpose statement for collegiate ministry which was written in 1935. I love it! It really highlights what we should be doing. It talks about leading students and others in the academic community to faith in Christ, strengthening their relationship to Christ through discipleship and connections, to connect students to the life and mission of the church. I thought, 'that's it.' If I can help our convention to reach those 18.7 million college students through the ministry of BSU, that's it. We involve about 300,000 students nationally, so what do we need to do to move forward?"

Osborn relates to BSU directors, to state office personnel [such as Weaver McCracken, director, Collegiate Ministry department, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board], and to the church staff college ministers.

The Cooperative Program has played an important part in Osborne's nurture and career. "Certainly CP money was crucial in my seminary education," said Osborne. "Cooperative Program dollars placed employees on the campus of Mississippi State, and it was there where God really gave me direction. Those folks saw possibilities in me that I never saw in myself, and gave me opportunities to minister and see the world. Cooperative Program dollars paid my salary in my campus BSU work."

Even now, Osborne keeps her finger in local church collegiate work. She is interim college minister at First Church, Nashville. "I get plenty of opportunities to speak and share with students, and that keeps me engaged."

"I want to thank Mississippi Baptists for a strong commitment to collegiate ministry over the years," Osborne continued. "Mississippi Baptists have just 'put their money where their mouth is.' My college years were the most significant years of



COLLEGIATE MINISTRY LEADER — Linda Osborne, National Collegiate Ministry Leader, Network Partnerships Division, at LifeWay Christian Resources in Nashville, is seen in her office. Osborne, a Winona native, has served in this position since November of 2006. (Photo by Tony Martin)

my life in terms of my calling, of me coming to understand of what God created me for, in discipleship — so many areas. I'm so grateful to Mississippi Baptists for what they do in college ministry."

PUBLISHED SINCE 1877

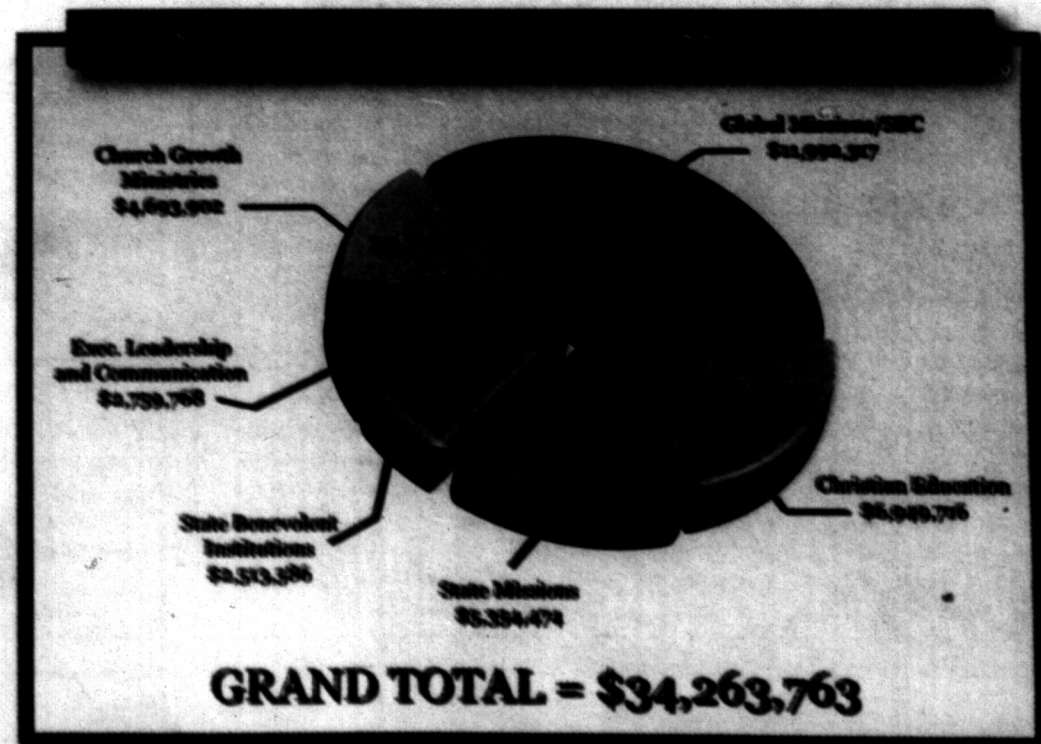
APRIL 10, 2008

VOL. 131

No. 16



SPECIAL
COOPERATIVE PROGRAM
EDITION



We B

"The commitment to give a designated percentage of the church budget on a regular basis to the Cooperative Program makes the 'impossible become possible' for every single Mississippi Baptist. Each congregation, from the numerically smallest to the largest, can share an investment in this amazing, God-ordained program."

Mrs. Dell D. Scoper

"Southern Baptists spell missions C-O-O-P-E-R-A-T-I-V-E-P-R-O-G-R-A-M."

Dr. Wiley Abel

"I believe in the Cooperative Program. For over eight decades the Cooperative Program has provided a process of integrity for a church of any size to be an integral funding partner of missions: bringing Jesus to the world and bringing the world to Jesus!"

Dr. J. Steve Jackson

"I believe the Cooperative Program is the very best vehicle available to reach the world with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. It gives all of our churches an opportunity to be a part of a very concerted effort to spread the good news of the joy and peace that is in store for those who will accept His gift of salvation."

Mr. A.L. "Buddy" Huff

"I attended the Southern Baptist Convention every year from 1956 to 1992. The Foreign Mission report inspired me to do more in support of the Cooperative Program. Today, if all of us supported the Cooperative Program, we could take the Gospel to the uttermost parts of the world."

Rev. Bartis Harper

"I support the Cooperative Program because it provides the avenue through which Southern Baptists are able to race to the lost with the gospel, meeting their present needs and eternal needs."

Rev. Hal Bates

"I believe in the Cooperative Program's fundamental doctrines that bind Baptists together:

1. Our mission mandate to reach the world
2. The freedom of each congregation but cooperative
3. The biblical call to labor together

Jerry V.

believe



ative Program because it blends three fun-
d Baptists together. Those doctrines are:
to reach the world
each congregation to be independent,
or together."

Dr. Gary Richardson

"I believe that our Lord has and still uses the Cooperative Program to fuel our efforts in reaching our world with the message that Jesus Christ makes a difference. The Cooperative Program allows any size church to unite and partner with sister churches in a powerful and positive display of fulfilling Acts 1:8."

Dr. Lloyd Sweatt

"Since becoming a missionary parent, I am more aware of how vital the Cooperative Program is as a lifeline of support to those men and women called of God to share the gospel around the world."

Mrs. Rebecca Williams

"God has given Southern Baptists the greatest program for carrying out missions, both international and at home, the world has ever seen. Through the Cooperative Program, the gifts of individual Southern Baptists unite together to carry out the Great Commission. I am honored to be part of such a great work by leading my church to give through the Cooperative Program."

Rev. Mickey Dalrymple

"I believe in and support the Cooperative Program. It is a wonderful tool that allows each of us to have a part in reaching beyond the four walls of our churches to bring Mississippi and the world to Jesus."

Rev. Paul Crowley

"The Cooperative Program is the vehicle that allows our church to be connected to missions in our county, state, North America, and throughout the world. The financial gifts of First Baptist, Indianola not only support our local ministries and missions, but place us and others all over the world fulfilling our Lord's command to "Go ye into all the world."

Mr. Weldon Aultman

"I believe that the Cooperative Program is still the most efficient and effective model to get churches involved in God's mission in our world. His mission is our mission, and I am grateful to be among the churches that participate in the Cooperative Program."

Dr. Gary Richardson

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PINE / BAPTIST	\$1,200.00
GOLDEN TRIANGLE / PLEASANT HILL	\$1,200.00
RANKIN / PLEASANT HILL	\$1,200.00
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CHICKASAW / PBC HOUSTON	152,502.97
MID-DELTA / PBC CLEVELAND	138,895.40
NEWTON / PBC NEWTON	119,105.00
BENTON-TIPPIN / PBC RIPLEY	107,011.20
ALCORN / TATE	102,540.00
RANKIN / BRIAR HILL	101,175.00
LEE / PBC BALDWIN	100,775.75
RANKIN / HOLLYWOOD HEIGHTS	95,000.00
JONES / PBC BLUEVILLE	95,100.00

CHURCH OFFERING CATEGORY: \$1,000,000 and above

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METRO / MONROVIA HEIGHTS	444,324.91
LEE / HARRISBURG	388,170.00
GOLDEN TRIANGLE / FAIRVIEW	357,000.00
LEE / CALVARY	348,000.00
NORTH CENTRAL / EMMANUEL	317,571.34
METRO / PBC CLINTON	310,300.11
METRO / COLONIAL HEIGHTS	288,740.87
RANKIN / PBC BRANDON	287,742.00

2008 MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST
COOPERATIVE PROGRAM BUDGET

Global Missions/SBC

17.50%	International Mission Board	\$5,996,159
7.98%	North American Mission Board	\$2,734,248
7.76%	Theological Education	\$2,658,868
1.19%	SBC Operations	\$407,739
0.57%	Ethics/Religious Liberty Comm.	\$195,303
35.00%	SUBTOTAL	\$11,992,317

Christian Education

8.87%	Mississippi College	\$3,037,738
6.96%	William Carey University	\$2,388,613
3.17%	Blue Mountain College	\$1,084,628
1.11%	Board of Ministerial Education	\$380,444
0.17%	Education Commission	\$58,293
20.28%	SUBTOTAL	\$6,949,716

State Missions

5.45%	Collegiate Ministry	\$1,867,932
2.73%	Women's Missionary Union	\$935,712
1.59%	Church Planting	\$543,563
1.44%	Mission Strategy	\$493,535
1.94%	Men's Ministry	\$663,439
1.67%	Missions Mobilization	\$571,889
0.81%	Stewardship	\$278,404
15.63%	SUBTOTAL	\$5,354,474

Church Growth Ministries

2.21%	Discipleship & Family Ministry	\$756,370
2.61%	Capital Needs	\$894,149
1.99%	Sunday School	\$683,254
1.51%	Church Music	\$518,744
1.27%	Church Growth	\$433,274
1.13%	Pastor/Leadership Development	\$387,323
1.03%	Church-Minister Relations	\$354,042
1.05%	Evangelism Promotion	\$358,455
0.90%	Conferencing	\$308,291
13.70%	SUBTOTAL	\$4,683,982

Executive Leadership & Communication

2.29%	Business/Financial Services	\$787,596
1.80%	The Baptist Record	\$616,422
1.37%	Communication Services	\$470,763
1.40%	Executive Administration	\$481,297
0.83%	Computer Information Services	\$283,690
0.35%	Convention Session & Committees	\$120,000
8.04%	SUBTOTAL	\$2,759,768

State Benevolent Institutions

2.88%	Church Retirement & Protection	\$984,000
1.96%	Baptist Children's Village	\$669,872
1.27%	MS Baptist Foundation	\$435,045
1.03%	Christian Action Commission	\$354,170
0.21%	Historical Commission	\$70,499
7.35%	SUBTOTAL	\$2,513,586

GRAND TOTAL

\$34,263,763

Stable Church grows in unlikely field

By Tony Martin
Associate Editor

In May of 2006, Ernie Sadler, consultant in the Church Planting Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, was serving as interim pastor of Robinwood Church, Saucier. Sadler asked the deacons and congregation of Robinwood to consider starting and sponsoring a new church plant in a large trailer community about three miles from the church. Robinwood had attempted to reach this area with a bus ministry with nominal results among the children and very few results among the adults. The church agreed to sponsor the new work for three years at \$200 a month. With the help of the Gulf Coast Association, a church planter was enlisted to come to the Mississippi coast and help start the church.

John Morris, along with his wife Pam, came to Saucier from Forrest City, Ar. "Germantown Church in Memphis was a sponsoring church for our work in Forrest City," said Morris. "We had been at this work for two-and-a-half years; it takes about that long to get a church standing on its own, and we were looking at staying there and pastoring that church. We were getting ready to call a full time pastor."

"We came down here in April in 2006 to survey the area after Katrina. While we were here, we met Ernie and Mindy [Mindy King, associate in the Gulf Coast Association] and looked around. We saw first hand the damage down here. We had no intention of staying here, but we thought we could help out, so we went back and told our church, and then we moved down on the parking lot of the associational office and started work Aug. 1."

From October through December of 2006, Morris, Sadler, the Arkansas Convention, two churches in Tennessee, and the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board were able to raise enough money to buy 2.3 acres of land adjacent to the Palmer Creek Trailer Community. The only buildings on the property were a 20' X 40' metal storage building and workshop, and a 10' X 30' roughly finished storage facility.

"A couple owned the property," Morris said. "We couldn't find anyone in the community who would let us begin a Bible study in their house. We knew we needed this land if we were to have a church. We tried to talk to the owner of the property, who didn't want to sell initially but he did let us set up a tent on this property, and that's where we first started." Ultimately, through personal witness and prayer, the owners agreed to

sell. "We were running 10-12 people in our Bible study," said Morris, "but our tent was blown away twice, so they let us begin meeting in the storage building. We cleared out a space to meet. There were old engines, parts, beer bottles everywhere."

The group continued meeting in the storage building, but initially there was little money to proceed with any improvements. More money was raised, however, and volunteer help was enlisted to help renovate the storage/workshop building and add a porch and two restrooms. "We came to the point that we knew it was time to go from a Bible study to a worship service. So we just told our folks that we were going to make this transition, and we had our first service in April of 2007. Forty-six people came."

More money was raised to help renovate the storage/workshop building, and volunteers helped add a porch and two restrooms. From the April service until September of 2007, approximately 75 people made professions of faith. Many of those were baptized in a local creek, while others were baptized in a portable baptistry.

Lack of funds still plagued the fledgling congregation. Then Morris got a call from a member of Robinwood Church. "He told me there was a man in Long Beach that wanted to get rid of a stable, and would we be interested? It turned out the stable was in great shape. I called a gentleman from Bellevue Church in Memphis and told him, 'We have a forty by sixty stable that's been given to us, but we have to have it taken down.' He brought a group down, and they took the stable down and brought it out here to us."

"John and I were talking one day about what to name the church," Sadler said, "and I mentioned that this place looked like a barn or stable. John jumped on that and decided to call it Stable Baptist Church."

The Stable Church is located at the corner of Palmer



STABLE CHURCH FLOURISHES — Ernie Sadler (left) and John Morris, pastor of Stable Church, Saucier, are seen in front of one of the converted sheds which is now used for children's activities. The church averaged 94 in worship in February. (Photo by Tony Martin)

Creek Road and East Wortham Road in Saucier. Every resident in the Palmer Creek community must pass by the church to enter or exit. In February 2008, the church averaged 94 in worship attendance. On a recent Wednesday evening, over 50 children were in attendance.

The church is partially funded through monies from the Margaret Lackey State Missions Offering via the Church Planting Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, but has also been the beneficiary of Cooperative Program dollars.

From the work of Ernie Sadler, to the work of the Gulf Coast Association, from funds from other churches and even other state Baptist conventions, cooperative dollars have contributed to the extraordinary life and growth seen at Stable Church. The young church is also giving 10% to the Cooperative Program and associational missions.

The intended future use of the church building will not be limited to just traditional church functions, but will also serve as a type of community center for a low income community and will provide a low cost day care center for the families of Palmer Creek.

Such uses will be designed to serve as evangelistic tools for reaching the unchurched in the community.

(Ernie Sadler contributed to this article.)



Practical Principles for Christian Living



A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE CHRISTIAN ACTION COMMISSION OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION • VOLUME 8 • ISSUE 4

Miss. Taxpayers Beg for Crumbs from Rich Man's Table

By Jimmy Porter, executive director
Miss. Baptist Christian Action Comm.

Some things just get under your skin, and House Bill 1196 presently being considered by Mississippi legislators does that to me. The short description given to it is, "Tourism; revise the definition of tourism projects for the 'Tourism Project Sales Tax Incentive.'" The bottom line is that this bill will allow the gambling industry to take advantage of this — call it what it really is — tax rebate.

HB 1196 allows a corporation that invests a minimum of \$10 million in a tourism project to receive a tax rebate for up to 10 years, not to exceed 30% of the estimated cost of the project. For example, if a corporation spends \$150 million dollars on a project, Mississippi taxpayers could potentially return \$50 million over ten years in tax rebates.

During last year's legislative session, the casinos and their parent companies were excluded from this tax rebate program, but now they desire to be added, and some of our elected officials are more than willing to accommodate them. I do not oppose economic development and tourism projects, but I do resent giving more tax credits and rebates to the gambling cartel.

Did you know casinos do not pay Mississippi income taxes on their profits like other businesses? Here is a generalization of how it works. If a company builds a \$20 million casino which we will call Project A, then by law they must invest the same amount (\$20 million) in

additional land-based projects — hotels, golf courses, etc., which we will call Project B. The casinos pay a straight eight percent tax to the state and then up to four percent to local governments. This tax is collected only from the proceeds that come from their gambling tables, etc.

Let's say a gambler goes into a casino and loses \$1,000. The casino then pays out \$200 to another gambler. The casino is allowed to pay taxes on only \$800, so Mr. Taxpayer (the state) gets \$64 — eight percent — from the casino's \$800 take. This eight percent (\$64) then becomes a tax credit against the casino's business taxes not only on Project A, but also project B, which is completely separate from the casino. In addition, the casino has not had to pay any income tax.

The casino is also able to give "complimentary" meals, rooms, and drinks to patrons at cut rates that local businesses cannot possibly match, which drives many of these local businesses into failure.

Now, HB 1196 says to the gambling cartel, "If you will build additional Projects C and D to attract even more tourists so they can gamble even more so we can get even more tax revenue, then we will give back to you up to 30% of your 'estimated cost' in the form of a tax rebate. In 2007, Mississippi collected \$332 million in taxes from \$2.9 billion reaped from their gambling tables. How much more do you think taxpayers need to help the casinos?"

I wonder what would happen if the coastal legislators and the Mississippi Tourism and Economic Development Councils went to those who lived or may

still be living in FEMA trailers, those who are struggling to rebuild their homes or those who find it difficult to pay insurance, and asked them if they desired to give the casinos another tax break. I don't think they would agree to do so.

When this bill was debated on the Senate floor, it was presented by Senator Billy Hewes III of Gulfport. Senator Gary Jackson of Kilmichael asked about the numbers and the amounts of money lost by the tourists/gamblers. Senator Hewes' response was that if more theme parks, water parks, and cultural centers, etc., were built, it might keep more people out of the casinos.

Senator Hewes, we know Mississippi is on the bottom rung of the educational ladder, but if you think we are that dumb, you should be working this hard on behalf of education in Mississippi and not for the casinos.

In Luke 16, Jesus tells the story of the poor man Lazarus begging crumbs from the rich man's table. The rich man (gambling cartel) sits at a table garnished with \$2.9 billion dollars and we (Mississippi taxpayers) sit at their feet begging for a few crumbs (\$332 million) from their sumptuous table.

The casino owners cast us a few crumbs and then rise with their sacks of gold worth billions, laugh at us, and then waddle all the way back to Vegas with their profits and rebates.

When you hear a legislator say we need to help this poor industry, ask them about Kirk Kerkorian, the major stockholder in MGM Mirage which

owns the Beau Rivage Casino in Biloxi. According to Forbes magazine, his net worth is \$16.0 billion, making him the world's 41st richest man. He shuttles between his luxurious homes in Nevada and California in a private Boeing 737 jetliner that has two bedrooms on board. His pre-school daughter enjoyed a \$70,000 birthday party. Our legislative leaders think poor Mr. Kerkorian needs a tax rebate. That gives new meaning to the phrase, "Your Tax Dollars at Work," doesn't it?

Ask your legislator if he/she really knows how much casino tax money Mississippi leaves on the table in relation to other states, with the exception of New Jersey and Nevada.

Mr. and Mrs. Mississippi Baptist, this bill may be passed and have the Governor's signature by the time you read this, but you can still ask your Senator and Representative how they voted on HB 1196.

Many legislators believe that if they do this in the first year of an election cycle, you will forget about it when they ask for your vote again in four years. Do not forget!

I do not hate the gamblers, the owners of the casinos, or even the legislators who will vote for this bill, but I despise the lies and deceit under which this is being done.

Gambling is like kudzu: it will keep spreading until it kills, infects, or diseases everything in its path, including the government of our state.

Sweetheart deals like HB 1196 are moving us there in a hurry.

Editor's Oprah commentary raises ire of National Enquirer

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (BP) — The National Enquirer took an editorial potshot at Florida Baptist Witness executive editor James A. Smith Sr. in their April 7 edition. Smith couldn't be more pleased.

Under a headline that declared, Baptist leader condemns Oprah, National Enquirer writer Alexander Hitchen drew readers' attention to what he called a "bizarre warning from a leading Baptist authority who says the talk-show host's support for some New Age teachings is leading Christians astray."

The bulk of Hitchen's article was then devoted to quotes from Smith's March 6 editorial, including an observation that "far too many Christians — including many who would consider themselves conservative, Bible-believing evangelicals — are more likely to take their theological cues from Oprah than they are from their faithful pastors."

The supermarket tabloid's weekly circulation of 1.05 million is down 28.5% from the fall-2004 level of 1.47 million advertised in its media kit, but it is still more than 26 times the Witness' circulation of 39,911. Smith thinks that is

Baptist leader *condemns* Oprah

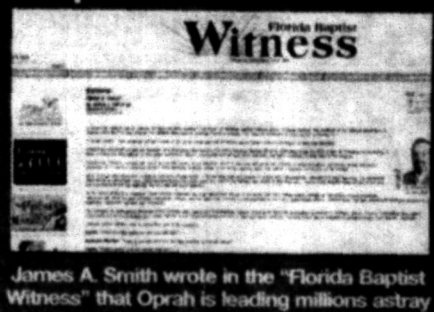
WATCHING Oprah can send you straight to hell!

That's the bizarre warning from a leading Baptist authority, who says the talk-show host's support for some New Age teachings is leading Christians astray.

James A. Smith Sr., executive editor of the "Florida Baptist Witness" newspaper, wrote: "In America's celebrity-driven culture, perhaps the most harmful 'Pied Piper' of heresies leading millions astray is Oprah Winfrey. Her adoption of anti-biblical doctrine is on display every day this year through her satellite radio network channel 'Oprah & Friends.' It's time for Christians to 'just say no' to the big 'O.'"

Smith condemns Oprah for supporting New

'Most harmful Pied Piper of heresies'



James A. Smith wrote in the "Florida Baptist Witness" that Oprah is leading millions astray

cats — are more likely to take their theological cues from Oprah than they are from their faithful pastors."

He added: "Of course, this isn't as glamorous as Oprah — but neither is eternal punishment in hell."

by ALEXANDER HITCHEN

Age guru Marianne Williamson, the author of "A Return to Love: Reflections on the Principles of 'A Course in Miracles'" by having her on her talk show.

He also cites Winfrey for letting Williamson star in a year-long series on the "Oprah & Friends" channel on XM satellite radio.

Smith decried the fact that "far too many Christians — including many who would consider themselves conservative, Bible-believing evangelicals — are more likely to take their theological cues from Oprah than they are from their faithful pastors."

He added: "Of course, this isn't as glamorous as Oprah — but neither is eternal punishment in hell."

by ALEXANDER HITCHEN



The editor warns the watching Oprah could send you to hell

April 7, 2008 • N

the confused theologically in asserting that Smith condemned Oprah, the Witness editor noted. "Oprah stands condemned by her own decision to embrace a false gospel," Smith said. "Yet God's grace can rescue her, and all true followers of Christ should pray to that end."

Smith's editorial focused on an e-mail circulating on the Internet that warns Christians about Winfrey's promotion of a New Age teaching called, A Course in Miracles. Smith noted the popular talk show host's stated belief that "there couldn't possibly be one way" to God and detailed the unbiblical teachings of ACIM, which was popularized by Winfrey's promotion of New Age guru Marianne Williamson's book, A Return to Love.

Noting that A Course in Miracles dismisses guilt as "solely an invention of your mind," Smith encouraged Christians to "pattern their lives after those of the Bereans who 'received the Word with great eagerness...' (Acts 17:11)."

great exposure for his publication. "Since I suspect National Enquirer readers are a prime demographic for Oprah, I couldn't be more delighted by the attention that publication chose to give my editorial,"

Smith told Baptist Press. I pray that the coverage may cause a few readers to carefully evaluate Oprah's theology — and their own eternal destiny."

The Enquirer's page-51 headline is a lit-

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NORRIS BOOKBINDING COMPANY, Inc., old Bibles rebound. Also, church bulletins and hymnals. For more information call (662) 453-7424 or fax us at (662) 455-6743.

1. **Wallerville Church, New Albany,** installed new staff members Kevin McBrayer as children's minister and Randy Verrell as youth minister Feb. 10. Shown are McBrayer, pastor Horace Thomas, and Verrell.

2. **Providence Church, Carroll County,** has called David Haggerty as pastor. He was recently ordained at his home church, Mt. Olive Church, Carroll County. Shown are Haggerty, wife Donita, and sons Chip Haggerty and Hunter.



1. Wallerville Church staff members



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Oklahoma Baptist UNIVERSITY
Shawnee, Oklahoma

PRESIDENT

Oklahoma Baptist University invites nominations and applications for the position of president.

OBU, founded in 1910, provides education in the traditional arts and sciences and other disciplines to prepare students for effective leadership and service. It is governed by a Board of Trustees which is elected by the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma. Ten baccalaureate degrees are offered in 82 fields of study through the College of Arts and Sciences, the Joe L. Ingram School of Christian Service, the Warren M. Angell College of Fine Arts, the Paul Dickinson School of Business and the School of Nursing. Fall 2007 headcount enrollment totaled 1,607. OBU also offers graduate studies leading to master of business administration and master of science in nursing degrees. Additional information about the University is available at www.okbu.edu.

The successful candidate will have these qualifications:

- Fully committed follower of Jesus Christ who demonstrates a vibrant faith and passionate witness for Christ;
- Intellect, energy, and commitment to support the mission of Oklahoma Baptist University as a Christian liberal arts institution;
- An earned doctorate and significant senior level administrative experience;
- Ability to support and enhance OBU's excellence in teaching, scholarship and service;
- Ability to relate and communicate effectively with faculty, students, alumni, staff and prospective students, and to represent the University to a wide variety of audiences, especially in Oklahoma Southern Baptist churches;
- Aptitude and commitment to lead fund raising efforts;
- A visionary with a commitment to and experience with effective strategic planning;
- Active member of a Southern Baptist church.

The Presidential Search Committee will begin the review of applications and nominations in March and will continue to the time of selection. Applications and nominations should be sent to Presidential Search Committee, OBU Box 61241, 500 West University, Shawnee, OK 74804.

Oklahoma Baptist University welcomes applications from qualified individuals, regardless of race, color, sex, national origin, disability, age, or veteran status. To fulfill the mission of the University, the office of President must be held by an active member of a Southern Baptist church.

BIBLE STUDIES FOR LIFE

Pioneers in the Covenant: Radical Devotion During Tough Times

Genesis 22:1-14, 17-18

By Rick Henson

Every week tens of thousands of people file into a huge arena/ church in a metropolitan southern city to hear a famous young preacher while millions watch him on television or online. His message is always upbeat and positive. When this handsome pastor/author was asked on Larry King Live June 5, 2005 if Jesus is the only way of salvation, he hesitated and refused to say so. Though the preacher sells millions of books and is cheered by tens of thousands weekly, he never preaches on suffering or repentance. You will never hear him smile and say, "Today I will preach about how God tested Job."

Yet 1 Peter 4:19 reads, "So those who suffer according to

God's will should, in doing good, entrust themselves to a faithful Creator." Sometimes believers do suffer and it is God's will. The world does not want to hear this. Many believers would rather throw money at a false prophet who ignores it, but God does test His people and often allows them to suffer.

1 Peter 4:12 advises us, "Dear friends, when the fiery ordeal arises among you to test you, don't be surprised by it, as if something unusual were happening to you." Why should we be surprised when we are tested by God? Abraham was tested in Genesis 22.

God changed Abram's name to Abraham. This subtle change in Hebrew from "exalted father" to "father of many" indicated



Henson

that God would keep His promise of countless offspring. God did keep His word and gave Abraham and Sarah a son, Isaac. Then God tested Abraham and told him to sacrifice his only son. This was simply a test of Abraham's devotion; certainly not a new pattern of worship.

God told Abraham to go to a place that He would show him, just as He did initially when Abraham left his home in Haran. Abraham journeyed with Isaac and two servants. When they reached Mount Moriah God said, "This is the place." God led Abraham and his son to a specific spot. When they arrived Isaac asked his father, "We have the wood, the fire, and the knife. Where is the sacrifice?" Abraham answered, "The Lord will provide." The Hebrew expression was "Jehovah jireh," or literally, "Jehovah will see to it." Our word "provide" is derived from two Latin words pro and video, which mean, "See to it."

God will provide. This prophetic word was foretelling what God ultimately provided in Jesus Christ. As Abraham bound his son and prepared to obey God, an Angel stopped him and God said, "Now I know that you fear me, since you would not spare your only son."

Abraham looked and saw a ram caught in a thicket and substituted it for his son. Most scholars agree that Mount Moriah is today called Mount Zion and is where God provided the ultimate sacrifice.

What a great picture of salvation! God provided a substitute sacrifice on the exact same spot that He foretold it to Abraham and Isaac. God picked the place and showed it to Abraham. Now we know that God loves us, for He did not spare His only Son, either.

Abraham was tested and he proved his love for God. Our tests and trials reveal the depth of our commitment to God, as did Abraham's. Our obedience in the midst of difficulties opens doors to represent Christ to those who do not know Him.

1 Corinthians 1:18 reads, "For to those who are perishing the message of the cross is foolishness, but to us who are being saved it is God's power." God's message of salvation is only found in the cross and empty tomb of the Lord Jesus. A positive attitude won't hurt, but we are not saved through positive thinking or learning better habits or skills. We are saved when we submit to the Christ of Calvary, even if that means suffering.

Are you seeking an easy faith that excludes any suffering and testing? That is not faith at all, but platitudes and Pollyanna pipe dreams. Jesus lived among us and understands what we face. Hebrews 4:15 reads, "For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been tested in every way as we are, yet without sin." Following Jesus includes tests and trials, but He who overcame will guide you. Remember, God will provide for His own.

Henson is pastor of Oakdale Church, Brandon

EXPLORE THE BIBLE

When Tempted to Sin

Genesis 39:1-4, 6b-15, 19-20

By Marion Duncan

Joseph entered Egypt with some Ishmaelites as a slave about age eighteen. At this time the Great Pyramid was already more than a thousand years old and other pyramids and the Sphinx were visible on the desert horizon. Thriving cities were receiving the wealth of the world brought by camel caravans and on papyrus boats traveling the Nile River. Joseph left Egypt at the age of 110 for the land of glory, but for eighty of the years between, he was the highest lord of the land.

This success story is marked by Joseph's unending industry and integrity. From what is found in scripture, he decided that if God wanted him to be a slave, he would be the best slave he possibly could be. Whereas, so often when we are in adverse circumstances, we give in to

temptation and start assigning blame, wallowing in self-pity, voicing senseless criticisms, showing resentment, striking back, or the like. "We have to learn from life's adversities before we can be trusted with life's advancements." (Exploring Genesis)

Who would have thought that anything good could come out of Ravensbruck, death camp of the Nazis? When prisoner 66730, Corrie Ten Boom, was incarcerated there, she determined to live her Christian testimony regardless of the consequences. In barracks 28, she held Bible classes and taught fellow inmates how to face life and death with Jesus Christ. Through her life and ministry beyond Ravensbruck, thousands and thousands came to know Christ as personal Saviour. God meant evil for good.



Duncan

Joseph was bought by Potiphar, the captain of the guard, one of Pharaoh's officials.

Slaves who were war captives were sent to labor in the fields and subjected to harsh treatment. However, slaves who were bought usually served in domestic situations, were treated kindly, and enjoyed generous freedoms. So it was with Joseph. In this surrounding, he benefited from the best educational opportunities and was introduced to important people whom God would use to prosper him. The Lord enabled him to maintain an attitude and approach to his assigned responsibilities to honor Him in all he did. (Matthew 25:21)

The Lord was with Joseph and prospered him even in the house of his Egyptian master. Potiphar saw that the Lord was with Joseph and gave him success in everything he did. Joseph found favor in the eyes of Potiphar. From the time he put Joseph in charge of his household and of all he owned,

the Lord blessed the Egyptian's household because of Joseph. Thus, Potiphar learned through experience just as Laban had. (Genesis 30:27) Prosperity of the wicked is for the sake of the good. No longer did Potiphar concern himself about anything except the food he ate. This was probably due to ritual reasons, since Joseph was a Hebrew, and "Egyptians could not eat with Hebrews, for that is detestable to Egyptians." (Genesis 43:32)

Egyptian women were known for their shameless moral infidelity. Before long, the handsome form of Joseph caught the eye of Potiphar's wife. The fact that she was married should have covered her eyes from desiring another man, but she sought to entice and seduce Joseph. He was assaulted with very strong temptation by the wife of his master, a situation favored even by opportunity. But, (1) he "had made a covenant with (his) eyes not to look lustfully at a girl." (Job 31:1-NIV) (2) He, also, had loyalty for his master. "...he has withheld nothing from me except you, because you are his wife. (39:9) And, (3)

"How then can I do such a wicked thing and sin against God?" (39:10)

We have God's very great and precious promises with which to face the corruption of the world. "God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it." (1 Corinthians 10:13-NIV) Joseph fled quickly as evidenced by the fact that he left his coat in the hands of his seducer. (2 Timothy 2:22) As the Puritan preacher said, "Joseph lost his coat, but he kept his character."

Being able to control the tongue is a mark of spiritual maturity. (James 3) When Potiphar believed his wife's false accusations against Joseph and put him in prison, Joseph offered no resistance or explanation. "...the Lord was with Joseph and gave him success in whatever he did." (39:23b) Again, God intended the evil men do for good.

Duncan is wMu director at First Church, Starkville

Guidelines for submitting news and photographs

The Baptist Record is pleased to publish news and photographs of special events that take place in cooperating churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

News submitted for publication in The Baptist Record must be either (a) type-written, (b) neatly printed on 8 1/2 by 11-inch paper, or (c) neatly printed on standardized forms provided by the newspaper. All articles must be received in writing; no articles will be accepted over the telephone.

News may be submitted electronically to the address below, and must be contained in the message segment of an e-mail form. Due to increasing virus threats, no text attachments will

be accepted. Photograph attachments are permissible.

Please make articles concise. Include the **who, what, when, where** details of the story, along with a contact person's address and telephone number.

Photographs may be color or black and white. Instant photos and digital printouts are not reproducible. Digital photos may be used if submitted as a JPEG file via either (a) e-mail, (b) three-and-a-half inch floppy disk, or (c) CD. Photos must be

clear, sharp, and well-lighted. **Photographs can not be returned. Please do not attach photos with tape or staples.**

All news items are subject to editing, and all photographs are subject to cropping. Photographs must depict people. No landscape, building, or object-only photographs will be printed. News items and/or photographs can be published one time only. Deadline for submitting news is one week prior to requested publication date.

Articles that are not date-sensitive will be published on a space-available basis.

Submit news and photographs to The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. FAX: (601) 292-3330. E-mail: baptistrecord@mbcb.org.

THE BAPTIST
Record

Liberty Church, Carroll County: Revival, Apr. 13-16; Sun., 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon. - Wed., 7 p.m.; Truman Scarborough, speaker; Wilton Neal, music.

South McComb Church, McComb: Revival, Apr. 20-23; Sun., 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon. - Wed., 6:30 p.m.; Joey Bernard, Wayne Hall, Webb Armstrong, Bruce McKenzie, and Bart Houston, speakers; Tim King, music.

Mt. Vernon Church, Liberty: Revival, Apr. 18-20; Fri. - Sat., 7 p.m.; Sun., 11 a.m.; Andy Stafford, speaker; Clint and Laura Penaber, music; Clint Pinalber, pastor.

Moss Hill Church, New Albany: Revival, Apr. 13-16; Sun., 6 p.m.; Mon. - Wed., 7 p.m.; Rick Blythe, speaker; Mark Garrett, music; Charlie Ransier, pastor.

Military Church, Sumrall: Revival, Apr. 13-16; Sun., 10:30 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.; Mon. - Wed., 7 p.m.; Buddy Day, speaker; McKay Pearce, music; Mike Aultman, pastor.

Ogden Church, Benton: Revival, Apr. 13-16; Sun., 10:30 a.m.; Mon. - Wed., 7 p.m.; youth group will perform drama, *The Rapture*, Mon.; different speakers.

First Church, Lexington: Revival, Apr. 13-16; Sun., 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon. - Wed., 7 p.m.; P.J. Weeks, speaker.

First Church, Mendenhall: Revival, Apr. 20-23; services, 7 p.m.; Danny Lanier, speaker and music; Rodney Anderson, pastor.

Ebenezer Church, Liberty: Revival, May 4-7; Sun., dinner on the ground following morning worship, with service after lunch; Mon. - Wed., 7 p.m.; Jay Avance, speaker; Raymond Steele, music.

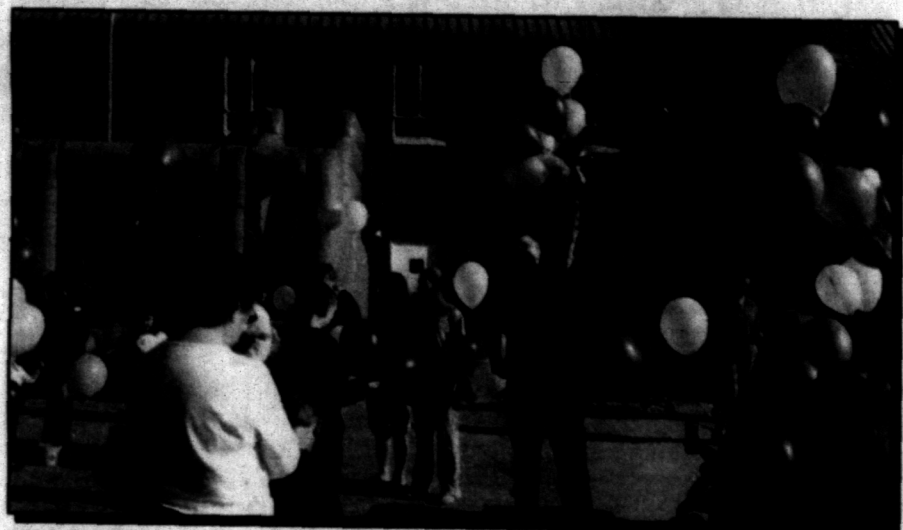
Clarke College Alumni Association is holding its centennial meeting at First Church, Newton, Apr. 26, 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Mississippi College is hosting a 12-hour relay for Colleges Against Cancer Apr. 11. For more information, contact the American Cancer Society office in Jackson at (601) 321-5516.

JUST FOR THE RECORD



1. White Oak Church, Magee



2. First Church, Charleston



3. Corinth Church, Charleston

1. The preschool - 2nd grade children of White Oak Church, Magee, held an Easter egg hunt and were presented the gospel through Resurrection Eggs as part of the Good Friday services Mar. 21. Shown are the participants.

2. First Church, Charleston, held a balloon release on Super Saturday, an annual outreach Easter egg hunt held the Saturday before Easter.

3. Corinth Church, Charleston, recently held a baby dedication service. Shown, from left, are Gordon and Jennifer Stanford with Harleigh; Lee and Katie Crenshaw with John Thomas; and Brandon and Tiffany Champion with Lori Beth.

4. The Bible Buddies of First Church, Kosciusko, participated in the Showdown at the Old Corral. Shown are the participants.

5. Concord Church, Pelahatchie, will dedicate a new baptistry window Apr. 13, 11 a.m. For information, call (601) 420-0943.

6. First Church, Newton, will host the 2nd annual Wildfire Student Conference Apr. 11-12. Tickets are \$15 and can be purchased at local outlets, at www.itickets.com, or at (800) 985-9324. For more information, visit www.wildfire08.com or call (601) 683-2066.

7. Society Hill Church, Oakvale, will host Calm Assurance in concert Apr. 20, 6 p.m. Love offering.

8. Cedar View Church, Olive Branch, will host a community singing and supper



4. First Church, Kosciusko

Apr. 19, 4-6 p.m., with the Geeslin Brothers.

9. West End Church, West Point, will host a one-day seminar, *How to Study the Bible*, May 3, 8 a.m. - 2 p.m. RSVP by Apr. 25 to (662) 494-2137. Lunch provided; love offering taken.

10. Liberty Church, Kemper County, is hosting Glorybound Quartet in concert Apr. 12, 6 p.m. Free.

11. First Church, Plantersville, held its 3rd annual Free Day Mar. 15. Church members donate clothing, furniture, toys, and household items to be given away "free" to the community as an outreach and witnessing event. Over 100 people came to the event. Shown are some of the volunteers.



11. Free Day, First Church, Plantersville

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